

VIETNAM COURIER

INFORMATION WEEKLY—E.O.: 46 TRAN HUNG DAO STREET, HANOI—DRVN

Nov. 23

1970

No. 296

7th Year

Stages and Problems
of Industrialization
in the DRVN

HAAT-WHITE CENTRAL LIBRARY
JAN 25 1971

DRVN FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT on US Air Attacks against North Viet Nam

On November 21, 1970, the US imperialists sent many flights of aircraft to violate the air space over Hai Phong, Quang Ninh, Ha Tay and Hoa Binh provinces, to attack a number of densely-populated areas, making a number of civilian casualties, and to fire rockets on the periphery of Hanoi. A camp of pilots captured in North Viet Nam was also hit, a number of pilots detained there were wounded.

On the same day, the US imperialists also launched air attacks on many densely-populated areas in Quang Binh and Ha Tinh provinces.

The armed forces and the people of the above areas put up a resolute and valiant fight, shooting down six US planes and damaging many others.

These are extremely serious war acts of the US imperialists crudely encroaching on the sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam in flagrant violation of the US pledge to stop completely the bombing of North Viet Nam, and posing a grave threat to the work of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam. This is an impudent challenge to peace and justice-loving public opinion in the world including American opinion.

As is known to everybody, after it had to stop unconditionally the bombardments on the whole territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the US Government has continued sending air and naval craft to violate the air space and territorial waters of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and to engage in spying activities, provocations and attacks on many populated areas in North Viet Nam. In early May 1970, the US imperialists launched large-scale air strikes on a number of densely-populated areas in Nghe An and Quang Binh provinces. Recently, after the downing of a US plane by the armed forces and people of the North, the Nixon Administration has repeatedly harped on the fancy story of an "understanding" between the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the United States on US reconnaissance

(Continued page 2)

THE NAM KY UPRISING 30 YEARS AGO

(November 23, 1940)

On Nov. 23, 1940, in Nam Ky (South Viet Nam) erupted an armed uprising. On the occasion of its 30th anniversary, our correspondent interviewed *NGUYEN THI THAP*, member of the CC of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, President of the Viet Nam Women's Union, and one of those who took a direct part in it. Following are the questions and answers.

QUESTION: You took part in the Nam Ky (or Nam Bo) uprising. Would you please tell us about the situation at that time, and the cause of the rebellion?

ANSWER: The Nam Ky uprising which broke out 30 years ago, has left deep imprints in the South Vietnamese people. Its outbreak was not by a mere accident.

Since the French colonialists imposed their domination on Viet Nam, our people had not ceased rising up for self-liberation. As Nam Bo* was conquered by the French aggressors nearly two decades earlier than Bac Bo* and Trung Bo*, our Southern people were the first to resist the French. Trong Cong Dinh, Nguyen Trung Truc and Nguyen Huu Huan—the eminent leaders of the anti-French movement in Nam Bo prior to the coming into existence of the Communist Party— and many other patriots had sacrificed their lives for the Fatherland.

Parallel with French colonial exploitation, the Viet Nam working class was born first in Nam Bo and the worker movement also first emerged there. From 1930, under the banner of the Indochinese CP the patriotic drive in Nam Bo gained in strength and scope. At the time of the founding of the anti-fascist Democratic Front (1936-1937), Nam Bo also took the lead in the national effort.

World War II broke out. The French colonialists ruthlessly suppressed our people's resistance. They stepped up military draft to supply manpower for the war against Germany and secure cannon-fodder for a confrontation with Siam (Thailand) in Western Cambodia. In June 1940, France was occupied by Nazi troops. In September 1940, in Indochina, the French were defeated by

Japanese fascists in Lang Son, and sold out Indochina to the latter. All these developments strongly stimulated the anti-colonialist feeling among the Nam Bo people. In face of the danger of a collusion between the French and the Japanese, and taking advantage of the French collapse, we staged a general insurrection in an attempt to wrest back power. This was the direct cause leading to the Nam Ky uprising.

The situation was propitious. Workers and peasants clearly showed their firm resolve. Many patriotic figures of the middle class and a section of the functionaries in the French colonial administration took sides with the revolution. Vietnamese soldiers in the French army refused to go to the front. Their anti-war movement gained momentum. The popular masses were strongly for the uprising and seizure of power.

I would like to lay emphasis on the deep origins of the uprising. It was the system of national and class oppression of the French colonialists and the reactionary feudal landlords and compradore bourgeois, and the centuries-old insurrectionary spirit and patriotic tradition of the Nam Bo people in particular and of the Vietnamese nation in general. These were just the factors which led to the glorious success of the August 1945 Revolution and have been motivating the long and valiant effort of the Nam Bo people for the past 30 years. In other words, so long as contradictions still exist between our nation and aggressive imperialism, revolutionary action and armed uprising remain the inevitable course of action.

(Continued page 2)

* Present appellations of Cochinchina, Tonkin and Annam.

In DRVN

BUMPER
SUMMER-AUTUMN
RICE CROP IN
MANY PROVINCES

(See article on page 2)

*

In the threshing yard of Chi Chi agricultural co-operative (Ha Tay province).



Bumper Summer-Autumn Rice Crop in Many DRVN Provinces

THE Summer-Autumn rice harvest has been in full swing since early November. Elaborate preparations made since long have helped speed up the harvest. Such rice-growing provinces as Thai Binh, Nam Ha, Hai Hung, Thanh Hoa, have brought in a heavy crop.

Great efforts have been made by all to get the work done quickly.

Many co-operatives have adopted new varieties of high-yield rice and fully applied new combined farming techniques. This year the irrigation and manuring have been carried out more adequately. The management of manpower has been improved, the labour norms set in clearer and more concise terms.

During the harvest, tens of thousands of infant classes and kindergartens have opened to free female labour force. To save time for the farmers, foodstuffs have been made directly available to production brigades. In some localities meals are served to the harvesters in the fields which has made it possible for them to replenish their strength without leaving their work site.

DRVN

News in Brief

At the invitation of the DRVN government, an economic delegation of the Rumanian Socialist Republic, headed by (George Radulescu, member of the Presidium of the CC of the Rumanian Communist Party, and Vice-President of the Council of Ministers, arrived in Hanoi on November 15.

An agreement on Bulgarian economic and military aid to Viet Nam for 1971 was signed on November 12 in Hanoi between the delegations of both countries.

At the invitation of the Cingalese Peace Council and the Ceylon-Viet Nam Solidarity Committee, a delegation of the Viet Nam Peace Committee headed by Tran Dang Khoa, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the DRVN National Assembly, paid a friendship visit to Ceylon from Nov. 2 to 8.

A West-German people's delegation arrived in Hanoi on a friendship visit to the DRVN. It included among others Mme Sybille Weber, permanent member of the "Hilfsaktion" Association (Viet Nam Assistance Committee) and Dr Georg Karl Spöck, Director of the Section of Assistance to Victims of Accidents of the Association of Catholics of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Implementing the cultural co-operation program between the DRVN and Soviet Union, a delegation of the Soviet Writers' Association led by the well-known poet Evgeni Dolmatovski has arrived in Viet Nam on a friendship visit.

92nd Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (Nov. 19, 1970)

Mr XUAN THUY Scores Prolongation and Intensification of the US War in Indochina

MR Xuan Thuy, chief of the DRVN Government delegation, once more scored the attempt of the Nixon administration to induce the American people into believing that it was ready to put an end to the war in Viet Nam and bring home all US troops. As a matter of fact the war was further intensified and US military occupation prolonged.

He brushed aside Melvin Laird's threat after the North Vietnamese AA defence's shooting down of an RF-4, and American military circles' bluster on continued reconnaissance flights over the DRVN.

The DRVN representative also denounced the extension of the US war of aggression to Laos and large-scale military operations in Cambodia conducted by the Saigon and Phnom Penh puppets as well as American bombings of the Khmer territory.

He pressed for a serious US response to the RSVN PRG's Sept. 17, 1970 peace proposals.

DRVN FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT...

(Continued from page 1)

flights over North Viet Nam": at the same time, it has put forward belittled and insolent talks to the effect that the United States continues spying flights over North Viet Nam "to protect the lives of our servicemen," that it is "ready to take appropriate actions in response," that it is "ready to take self-defence" "reactions". These are the genuine intentions intended to conceal the design of pursuing and intensifying war acts against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

The recent war acts of the US against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam have further exposed them as extremely belittled and odious aggressors. Obviously, the so-called "peace initiative" of the Nixon Administration is aimed solely at deceiving world and American public opinion, and furthering the US imperialists' scheme to prolong and expand the war of aggression in Indochina.

The Government of the Democratic Republic

of Viet Nam serves a stern warning with regard to the above war acts of the US imperialists: it firmly demands that the US Government completely stop all encroachments on the sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. The US Government must bear full responsibility for all consequences arising from its adventurous acts.

The Vietnamese people are resolved to punish any encroachment of the US imperialists on the sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and to smash all other adventurous acts on their part. No hysterical action, no insolent threat of the US imperialists can shake the firm determination of the Vietnamese people to persevere in, and step up, the fight against US aggression to liberate the South, defend the North, and to protect the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland.

Hanoi, November 21, 1970

The Nam Ky Uprising...

(Continued from page 1)

QUESTION 2: Please tell us about the course of events during the uprising and its achievements.

ANSWER: In March 1940 the Nam Ky Committee of the Indochinese CP worked out a plan for the preparation for the uprising. In July 1940, its Standing Committee held an enlarged session to review the situation and decided to launch the insurrection.

From Nov. 22 to Nov. 30, 1940, the insurrection broke out in the provinces of Gia Dinh, My Tho, Cho Lon, Tan An, Can Tho, Vinh Long... Later, it spread to all other provinces of Nam Bo until the end of Dec. 1940. It was particularly strong in Chau Thanh and Cai Lay districts (My Tho) and in the districts of Duc Hoa, Hoc Mon, Thu Thua, Tan Uyen, Tan Binh, Can Long, etc. In Saigon, as its plan had leaked out the French colonialists resorted to extensive terror and only a section of the armymen rose up.

Elsewhere, there was a bustling activity in preparation for the uprising. Revolutionary zeal was great among the masses.

At that time I was engaged in activities in My Tho province where the movement was developing in force. I still remember that the directives for the uprising from the Nam Ky Party Committee reached us when we were in the jungle, as there was terror everywhere. It was raining hard and we were having our meal. We read the instructions with excitement and enthusiasm. It came as a shower at a time of drought. The decision to launch the uprising, indeed, met the aspiration of the people who were longing for their liberation.

For the oppressed masses, the order to take to the streets acts like a detonator. Everybody, old and young alike, was in high spirits. Young boys and girls did their farm work by day and underwent combat training by night. In the jungle, smith shops and sewing machines went into operation, making arms, flags, and clothes for the insurgent troops. People brought food, gunpowder and other facilities to the jungle as their contributions to the revolution.

The orders reached our province at 3 a.m. Nov. 23, 1940, and only 2 hours later, uprisings erupted in all villages. Beasts of war, groups and towns mingled with explosions of bamboo crackers resounded from one end of the province to the other. The people's forces arrayed full battle array, warned out and attacked military posts. It was a forest of swords and spears and a sea of flags and banners. Village officials, frightened, took flight. In some places, loud-speakers were used to call on armymen to surrender. For the first time, the red flag with the gold star made its appearance, bringing enthusiasm and confidence to the masses. The revolutionary forces developed rapidly. A unit of insurgent troops, about one thousand in number, returned from an attack with its strength swelling to two or three thousand.

People's revolutionary power was established in many villages. Immediately after its establishment, it brought real benefits to the people. A part of the land and

other property owned by big reactionary landlords was confiscated and distributed to the poor. At that time in Nam Bo, apart from reactionary landlords and comprador bourgeois who identified themselves with the imperialists, many landlords and national bourgeois joined the revolution and supported it with donations in the forms of money, gold, jewels, cattle and textiles. Some gave their land and rice-mills. With these contributions, the revolutionary power had enough rice and money to raise troops. Charity teams were set up to help the poor. People who were given paddy, carried it home in a festive atmosphere.

Revolutionary power ordered abolition of debts and all kinds of taxation. The people tore up all head-tax certificates. Acknowledgements of debts were stacked up and burnt. People gazed at the flames and cheered.

Revolutionary power also set up people's tribunals to try French agents who owed blood debts to the people. Justice was strictly done at the hearings. There were no unwarranted arrests or convictions. People's tribunals passed heavy sentences: this was quite understandable, considering the deep hatred harboured by the people for years. However, the Party Committee, with its wise policy, appointed defence counsellors to see to it that the tribunals took into account all palliating circumstances and the policy of leniency of the Party. As a result although people's tribunals could be found in many localities, most of the guilty persons were released after education. Out of 100 persons to the Party, many of them later supported the revolution.

From Dec. 31, 1940 onward, the enemy carried out savage repression; in many localities the people resisted them courageously. The revolutionary forces went underground.

QUESTION 3: How do you account for the significance and influence of the uprising of 1940 at the next step of the revolution and the present anti-US fight for national salvation are concerned?

ANSWER: The Nam Ky uprising was unsuccessful because the objective conditions were not ripe. Yet it had an important significance and a profound influence on the struggle of the South Vietnamese people over the past 30 years. Just as the Nghe Tinh Soviets (1930-1931) and the Bac Son Rebellion (Sept. 1940), the Nam Ky insurrection was a general rehearsal by our people of the August Revolution (1945). From this abortive attempt, our people could draw many precious lessons for their revolutionary effort in the following years.

Although it was drowned in a bloodbath, with many villages bombed out or burnt to the ground, tens of thousands of people arrested and jailed, and thousands of people linked together by wire driven through the palms of their hands and then flung in groups into the sea, yet it had aroused a sense of patriotism in millions of South Vietnamese. A compelling example of staunchness and dauntlessness was set by

(Continued page 7)

SEPT. 2, 1945 SEPT. 2, 1970

The D.R.V.N. is 25 Years Old

I - THE GREAT LANDMARKS

LIKE all colonized countries, Viet Nam's industry was, after recovering her independence, a lop-sided and limping one completely dependent on the former metropolitan economy. In 1930, the peak year under the colonial regime, there were in Viet Nam 85,000 industrial workers, including 50,000 miners. The value of industrial production was 10 per cent of that of the industrial and agricultural production put together.

The first resistance was well nigh annihilated that already rickety industry. There were virtually no qualified personnel.

Only after three years of strenuous effort (from 1955 to 1957) was industrial production restored to its 1930 level (1939 = 100):

The electric power distribution network is widening.

Year	Total output	Industry proper	Small industry and handicrafts
1955	36.7	23.8	46.3
1957	98.8	94.7	102.3

From 1958 onwards, all private capitalist enterprises were redeemed from their owners and transformed into joint enterprises with the participation of the State. They were small enterprises provided with an obsolete equipment, for the Vietnamese bourgeoisie was constantly bullied by the colonial administration. In handicrafts, the co-operatives gradually replaced private enterprises.

With the completion of agricultural co-operation, towards the end of 1960, the transformation of private capitalist enterprises, the co-operation of most of handicraftsmen, the first economic structures of socialism have taken shape. Thus the stage of industrial development began at a quick tempo, laying the initial material and technical foundations of socialism.

Percentage of each sector in the total value of industrial and handicraft output

Item	1955	1960	1964
- State sector	10.8	52.4	64.5
- Joint enterprises	-	37.7	25.4
- Handicraft co-operatives	72.5	4.7	4.4
- Individual artisans	16.7	0.4	-
- Private capitalists	100	100	100

The development of industry started in the restoration period (1955-1957) was carried on:

Year	Total value of industry output	Industry proper	Small industry and handicrafts
1960	179.5	255.6	127.6
1965	339.7	611.5	155.2

At the end of the first 5-year plan (1961-1965) a modern industry was shaped into shape with the creation of fundamental branches turning out

items non-existent in the past. The industrial structure underwent a far-reaching change. There were such developing sectors as the

STAGES AND PROBLEMS OF INDUSTRIALIZATION

NGUYEN XUAN LAI

first nuclei of a heavy industry which turns out equipment machines, electricity, fuel chemicals building materials, to modernize all the national economy: a light industry for the production of consumer goods; a local industry which complements the centrally-run industry and renovated handicrafts whose important role it is to supply the population with necessities and agriculture with rudimentary implements.

From 1955 to 1965, important capitals were invested in industry to promote it in order to lay down the foundations of industrialization in the country.

Ratio of industry in total investments in capital construction in the national economy:

1955-1957	30%
1958-1960	45%
1961-1965	48%

Industrial production increased by 20.8 per cent per year in the period between 1958 and 1960 and by 13 per cent during the 5-year plan 1961-1965.

At the end of 1965, the value of industrial and handicrafts output was 50 per cent higher than that of industrial and agricultural production put together.

Industry began to play its leading role in the national economy; basic problems began to be resolved adequately.

The fulfilment of the first 5-year plan (1961-1965) was marked by the first US bombardments. North Viet Nam's industry had to be reactivated; during 4 years it was subjected to violent attack by US planes. With the cessation of US bombing a new situation emerged.

II - ROLE OF HEAVY INDUSTRY

AS an under-developed country which wants to bypass the stage of capitalist development, North Viet Nam would not be able to build socialism without solid material and technical foundations. The existence of a "relatively comprehensive heavy industry" becomes an objective necessity.

That is why the State has made important investments in this field.

The share of heavy industry in the total industrial investments is:

1955-1957	69%
1958-1960	73%
1961-1965	80%

In absolute value, these investments increased at an accelerated tempo:

1955-1957	100
1958-1960	650
1961-1965	2400

For the whole period from 1955 to 1965, the breakdown is as follows:

(Continued page 7)

Production in Group A (capital goods) has known a rapid growth: 38 per cent per year on the average against 22.4 per cent for Group B (consumer goods).

With a yearly increase of 50 per cent, mechanical engineering accounted in 1965 for 24 per cent of the output value of heavy industry as against 3 per cent in 1958, hence its important role in the raising of



At a small engineering workshop in an agricultural co-operative.

Economic and Financial Situation in Saigon

THE devaluation and "emergency measures" decided by the Saigon authorities have thrown bright light on the economy of enemy-held South Viet Nam. In its June 4, 1970 issue, the Saigon magazine

Chau Hung Kinh Te referred to a "deadly hit economic and financial situation which was having frightful effects on the moral and social life of the masses."

I - DECLINE OF AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION. ABERRANT DIVISION OF MANPOWER

AGRICULTURE, main source of income practised by 50 per cent of the population, has collapsed as a result of the shrinking acreage of farmland and the havoc wrought by the war. Formerly a rice exporter, South Viet Nam is now forced to import it. From 50,000 tons, the export of raw rubber has dropped to 25,000 tons per year. Before the war, sugar was produced in adequate quantities for home needs while at present 200,000 tons of it has to be imported yearly as its local production exceeds hardly 25,000 tons (1).

Forest resources have been systematically destroyed. In its Jan. 12, 1970 issue, Chau Hung Kinh Te complained that immense woody areas had been heavily devastated "due to the effects of explosive bombs, napalm and defoliant." Forest exploitation has been brought to a standstill, as "destruction continues with formidable means."

Fishing which yielded about one million tons of fish in 1964 is impeded by continual military operations.

This decline of agriculture continues its course unchecked. The New Yorker gave a glimpse of it when writing that South Viet Nam was a State which the US wants to save, but has been destroyed for seven years by its military with their biological war waged in the form of an increasing spraying of over 30,000 tons of toxic chemicals over the countryside and villages. It is established that the 2,451 used provokes the lateritization of the soil and birth of monstrosities and many other cancers for the people. The area affected by chemical spraying, which touched off a violent protest from American scientists, hit 257,110 acres in 1968 and probably over one million in 1969. Moreover the quantity of bombs released on South Viet Nam was 5,155,700 tons from January 1, 1968 to May 1969, "the paper said."

Industry continues to be in the doldrums. The An Hoa - Nong Son

sector has been wiped out since 1968. The Bien Hoa sector, boasted as an achievement of South Viet Nam's economy, has seen its activities much reduced. The Can Tho sector is in the making and that of The Duc is limping along whereas all the other sectors exist only on paper.

The bombing carried out by the US early in 1968 destroyed the suburbs and caused to industry a damage estimated at 5 billion piastres including a billion for weaving (figures given by the Industrial Development Centre in Saigon). The inconsiderate import of 70 million metres of textile has brought about the ruin of local production. 30 million metres of home-spun cloth remain unsold every year.

Industrial goods are absent on the Saigon export lists. Since "Vietnamization" investments have been rare, because of the instability of the regime.

The division of manpower makes bad worse. The number of the urban population increases regularly to reach at present 4 million or 23 per cent of the total population. According to Saigon statistics, "there was in 1960 81.3 per cent of farmers, 3.4 per cent of industrial workers and 15.3 per cent of traders. In 1966, the ratio of traders (improductive sector) was 25.4 per cent, farm hands 60.6 per cent and industrial workers 5 per cent" (Chau Hung Kinh Te, April 9, 1970).

The same review wrote in its issue of Feb. 26, 1970: "At present 1,348,000 people work in the State apparatus including one million in the army and other military branches, 200,000 civil servants, 48,000 people in rural economic development (in fact "pacification" agents) and 100,000 policemen."

The upset is complete with the systematic destruction wrought on nature, implements and man. No effort will be capable of restoring agriculture and industry in South Viet Nam.

II - CONSTANT AND INCREASING DEFICIT OF TRADE BALANCE

SAIGON foreign trade is characterized by the following: "1. Collapse of exports in face of imports. The total value of the export quota which represented 26 per cent of imports before 1969, dropped to 20 per cent during the 'special war' to reach the lowest percentages since 1965: 1.8 in 1968

and 1.5 in 1969. The deficit is 715 million dollars a year. "2. Almost all importations (85 per cent) are of consumer goods; equipment represents 15 per cent only and consists essentially of spare parts.

American goods account for half

the total imports and include chiefly motor-cars, milk, cotton goods, air conditioners, refrigerators.

US imports grow unceasingly together with Japanese goods to the detriment of French merchandise. From 1955 to 1969, American goods rose by 550 per cent, making up 63 per cent of the total of foreign wares bought by Saigon as against 30-35 per cent for Japanese and 1-5 per cent for French goods.

3. Rice and rubber were, before the war, main source of foreign currencies. However, as has been said, Saigon imports now a growing quantity of rice (half a million tons per year), despite being prevalent in areas under its control.

The exportation of rubber went

down to 25,000 tons in 1969 while it still remains the greatest hard currency earner.

4. Raw materials and farm products make up 98 per cent of the total value of exports. The official exchange rate is no longer favourable. The dollar which fetches in the black market 400 piastres or more is pegged at 118 piastres. "Vietnamization" has suppressed the expenses of the withdrawn contingents. The reserves of 330 million dollars in 1967 are reduced to 180 million in 1970, or 120 million below the safety level.

The overseas investments of 337 million piastres in 1964, fell in 1965 to 17 million (2), despite the facilities granted.

III - THE PIASTRE, A GHOST OF A CURRENCY

THE collapse of production and deficit of foreign trade has led to the depreciation of the currency, aggravated by a galloping inflation. Subjected to successive devaluations, the piastre has lost 99.9 per cent of its pre-war value.

According to official data, taking 100 as 1950 index, the general index of the workers' life, including the middle-income brackets, was 500 in 1969 and 600 in May 1970. The prices of foodstuffs have increased by 700 per cent.

The irresistible inflation has generated a steep price rise. A tael of gold was worth 100 gis of paddy in 1955 but 20 gis in 1968 only. It could buy 300 kilograms of fish or 450 kilograms of vegetables in 1955 and respectively 53 and 40 kg in 1969. A Saigon paper has uttered the following tongue-in-cheek remark: "The Vietnamese people probably ignore astronomy and geometry but they are quite aware that in 1955 with 5 piastres they could buy a bottle of beer and ice while today they must have eight 5 dong notes

or forty piastres to buy the same bottle of beer and without ice that. In other words, it is obvious that they know that 5 piastres can only buy one eighth of a bottle of beer or just for a mouthful." (3)

The price hike is catastrophic for civil servants and wage earners. A civil servant who gets 7,000 piastres per month cannot officially defray his official vital needs (fixed at 251 piastres per day). If he has a large family, one is at a loss how he can make both ends meet while remaining honest.

About thirty kinds of small banknotes have been issued the amount in circulation of which from 7.9 billion in 1968 went up to 103.18 billion in 1968, 131.6 billion in 1969 and 210 billion in 1970.

The International Monetary Fund recognized that in 1968, the inflation rate (41 per cent compared with the previous year) in Saigon was the highest of the 30 countries under review. Compared with 1963, it was up by 397 per cent.

IV - ENORMOUS BUDGETARY DEFICIT

THE Saigon budget swollen by the war, constantly shows a deficit. According to official figures (far from reliable) that deficit was 92,500 million piastres in 1970, or 65,500 million if US aid is taken into consideration.

The war expenditure goes up to 121,500 million out of a total of 190,500 million, or nearly two-thirds. The taxes (30,000 million) amount to nine-tenths of the revenue (98,000

million). The only means to fill this gap is to issue more banknotes, the tax-payers being already fleeced.

Non-military expenditure includes the building of ports, airfields, roads and barracks, which means that almost all the credits are spent on war.

Instead of cutting down the deficit, the direct intervention of GIs has worsened it, which trembled from 1965 to 1970.

popular masses. But economic slumps undermine even the foundation which Washington intends to lay.

HUYNH HA

- (1) Kink Te Tai Chinh (Economy and Finances Review, No 637, Jan. 10, 1970.
- (2) Chau Hung Kinh Te, April 9, 1970.
- (3) Kink Te Tai Chinh, Feb. 13, 1970.



SAIGON war invalids demonstrating against the Saigon administration

THIRD BLUNDER:

THE PHNOM PENH COUP D'ETAT

SINCE 1954, under Norodom Sihanouk, independent and neutral Cambodia had consistently rejected the protection of SEATO, i.e., of the United States, thereby placing herself in the way of its aggressive policy in Indochina and Southeast Asia.

Far from brooding the Khmers, the massive invasion by US troops of South Viet Nam only increased their sympathy with the resistance of their neighbours and fellow-sufferer under colonialism.

This state of things was not to the liking of Washington. Many attempts were carried out by the CIA to overthrow Sihanouk: plots, abortive assassinations, help to subversive organizations...

In March 1970, taking advantage of Sihanouk's absence CIA agents in Cambodia mounted a smear campaign, charging the Vietnamese with aggression. Bravos paid by the reactionaries and brought from the suburbs in lorries sacked the embassies of the DRVN and RSNV while pogroms were staged of Vietnamese residing in Cambodia for scores of years. Against the will of the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak junta, instigators of these slaughters, who wanted to divert the hatred of the Khmer people from the American aggressors and their Saigon lackeys, the stage setting only revealed their real nature. In fact, the attitude toward the Vietnamese has become for public opinion the cornerstone of all policy. Today, all those who oppose in one way or another the anti-imperialist struggle, particularly the drive against US aggression in Viet Nam, play into the hands of the United States and thereby set the faces against Cambodia's independence.

The treacherous generals who deposed Sihanouk to declare their readiness to follow a policy of peace and neutrality. However, nobody has been deceived. To overthrow Sihanouk is essentially to oppose his policy of neutrality, peace and national independence from the Americans.

But what took Nixon and his men unawares is the extraordinary rise and magnitude of the Khmer popular movement against the Americans and the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak rule. His embarrassment increased when Sihanouk issued his March 23 Proclamation calling on his people to overthrow the illegal regime and fight against the US imperialists, in the ranks of the FUNK. Then the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples was called and has sealed the fraternity and disinterested mutual aid between the three Khmer, Lao and Vietnamese peoples for the sake of their victory over aggressor US imperialism, their common enemy. A government of national union has been set up, assembling men reputed for their integrity, competence and progressive and anti-imperialist political inclinations. Recognized by tens of governments and supported by all the forces of progress in the world, it has been directing the combat of the Khmer people on the Cambodian soil itself. Within six months, the revolution has made a big step in Cambodia thanks to this misadventure of Nixon. The Lon Nol-Matak clique has landed in very deep waters, both politically, militarily and economically. Its writ does not run beyond a few towns so much so that Western journalists and diplomats dub Lon Nol "mayor of Phnom Penh."

The Los Angeles Times of April 6, 1970 wrote that Nixon's policy was ill-advised militarily and catastrophically politically. Nixon underestimated several important factors, such as the patriotic traditions of the Khmer people, the courage of its Head of State Norodom Sihanouk,

the latter's determination to confront the US aggression, the comradeship in arms between Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam, the role of Indochina as spearhead in the anti-imperialist battle in Southeast Asia...

FOURTH BLUNDER:

ARMED AGGRESSION AGAINST CAMBODIA

TO make good his previous mistakes, Nixon made another: on April 30, he hurled US troops against Cambodia, under the pretext of attacking the "sanctuaries" of South Vietnamese patriotic forces and smashing the "Viet Cong Pentagon." Within a few days, 50,000

ferment. From Hubert Humphrey to Edmund Muskie, including Clark Clifford, Averell Harriman, William Proxmire... most prominent politicians in the United States came out against the "Cambodian adventure." The Senate Foreign Affairs Committee summoned Nixon to testify about the "constitutional crisis" which he had triggered by ordering the armed aggression of a foreign country without consulting Congress, a course of action no president in the past 51 years had taken.

Even capitalist governments, like the Swedish, French, expressed disagreement or showed reserve. The only support given to the White House could lend no lustre to its

"special war" in Laos, the overthrow of the Sihanouk government in Phnom Penh and the armed aggression of Cambodia, a conclusion can be drawn: Nixon's Indochina policy has always been based on strength and hinged on the search for a position of strength to further its imperialist aims. Nixon remains obstinately reactionary and warlike, sometimes adventurous.

In South Viet Nam, the Americans and their puppets are in such a state that Nixon himself has at times recognized that a military solution is impossible. Nevertheless, hoping against hope he has intensified the war with a view to a military victory.

He has referred to a political solution reflecting the present relation of political forces, but he has been clinging to the Thieu-Khiem troika, with the wishful thinking that it will be revived.

The US aggressors have completely failed in their attempts to "break the Viet Cong's backbone," destroying the "nerve centre" of the NLF, but Nixon has been banking on another Junction City, this time on Cambodian territory.

The air war of destruction has come to a flop but Washington has been brandishing the threat of the resumption of the bombings of North Viet Nam.

Harriman wrote in Look (November 17, 1970) that Nixon neglected the negotiations while focussing his attention on military actions.

To blindly and obstinately indulge in power politics, to persevere in the search of a position of strength while he is in a position of weakness, such is the gravest error of Nixon. His bragging about US power frightens only cowards. Although American economic and military potentials are considerable, they are not enough to give the US aggressors supremacy, for imperialism is torn by irreconcilable differences. The United States is playing the hated role of international gendarme, which compels it to disperse its forces throughout the world in the illusory hope to check the revolutionary upsurge of

credit as it came from Chiang Kai-shek, Pak Jung Hi, Thanom Kittakachorn, Nguyen Van Thieu. At long last, Nixon had to withdraw his "boys" from Cambodia on June 30.

Thus the military aggression of Cambodia was another Nixon's miscalculation with disastrous effects. William Rogers, the US State Secretary, has admitted that this decision implied the failure of the "Vietnamization" (AP, May 5). As President Ho Chi Minh put it, the US President is like a fox with two legs trapped which he escape and jumps into another trap.



A column of puppet troops intercepted by Khmer patriotic forces on Phnom Penh-Sihanouville Road.

FIFTH BLUNDER: STUBBORN SEARCH FOR A POSITION OF STRENGTH

FROM the above errors, the "Vietnamization" of the war in South Viet Nam... the

people. Nixon does not want that his country to be regarded as an "impotent colossus" but he does not realize that today no power can impose its rule on the people of the world.

B.G.

News from Cambodia

In 5 Days, 1,500 Enemy Casualties in 2 Provinces Northeast of Phnom Penh

THE Khmer National Liberation Armed Forces proved to be highly successful in the period from November 8 to 12 in Snuol sector (Kratie province) and a section of Road No. 7 linking Phnom Penh to Kompong Cham.

On November 9 they wiped out the 52nd Lon Nol Battalion at Treung, an important cross-roads on Road No. 7, 14 km northwest of Kompong Cham, inflicting 500 adverse casualties, capturing a lot of weapons and grounding a chopper. Enemy reinforcements from Kompong Cham were intercepted with heavy losses. On the night of November 9, Lon Nol units stationed at Kompong Cham airfield came under a patriots' assault in which the enemy toll was 200 men.

From Nov. 8 to 12 other attacks were mounted by the patriots in Prey Tong area (11 km west of Treung), Peam Chai Kong (12 km southwest of Treung), as well as in Yaling Kask on Road No. 6 where an outfit of Lon Nol had been down for over two months. In total, enemy losses in Kompong Cham province from November 9 to 12 ran to 1,400 including a battalion and 6 companies written off.



Mass rally supporting the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia.

Changes in Kompong Thmar

FROM Kompong Thom town we proceeded to Kompong Thmar ("Thmar" in Cambodian means "stone wharf") on a moonlit night. It was so dim that we could only make out the dark outlines of the coconut and the that not trees (sugar palms) with their hanging leaves and the dismal silhouettes of broken walls.

Most of the coconuts and sugar palms as well as the area trees had been burnt from their tops. Some were left with stumps hardly higher than the concrete milestones by the roadside. A look at the truncated pillars and one can reckon the number of houses on stilts destroyed. From a heap of charred palm trunks was still filtering up. We were told that it had been smouldering for a couple of weeks. Beside half-burnt cottages, chairs, tables, wardrobes, pillows and mattresses littered the yard on the roadsides. The village school was a complete ruin and a whole row of dwellings adjacent to it had been blasted out. The planks of the wooden bridge from the asphalted road to the houses on stilts had been hacked to pieces by bombs and shells. A few of them still lay there like uprooted arms pointing to the brick wall half hidden among piles of dying embers.

The owners of the destroyed houses had moved to the village a good distance away from the highway. Only a few houses remained standing and their walls were packed marked with ugly bullet holes, and most of their tiles gone or broken. From under these roofs, you can see American planes roar past. Rain water dripping through the leaks on the wooden floors which were rotting. Three or four families lived in one such home. But the people of the town and village quickly fraternized and lent one another a helping hand.

The concrete bridge was still there as an impassible witness to the tragedy that struck this small town on a late May morning when troops of the Lon Nol army swooped down upon the village. Ten people lost their lives: two were cut down on

(Continued page 7)

News from LAOS

* Lao Patriotic Front and Alliance Committee Meet in Conference

THE Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee Permanent Bureau and the Lao Patriotic Neutralist Forces Alliance Committee Permanent Bureau have recently met in a bipartite conference presided over by Prince Souphanouvong, Chairman of the LPFC, APFL Press Agency reported.

The participants discussed measures to step up the Lao people's resistance against US aggression, for national salvation, and closely co-ordinated actions with the Vietnamese and Khmer peoples. They held that owing to the US imperialists' persistence in their intervention and aggression against Laos and in their refusal to end their bombardments on Lao territory so that the Lao parties concerned could favourably meet, the Lao problem had been so far stalemated.

The gathering wholeheartedly expressed high appreciation of Prince Souphanouvong's decision to send back to Vientiane Souk Vongkham, his special envoy, for preparations for the Khang Khay meeting between two princes' plenipotentiaries there. It also was of the opinion that should Prince Chom Chuan Phouma get rid of the American imperialists' and the extremists' pressure and seriously respond to the efforts exerted by the LPF, the forthcoming meeting of two princes' representatives would be fruitful.

* LPLAF Wiped Out 7,000 Enemy Troops and Downed 73 Aircraft during the Rainy Season

IN the last rainy season the patriotic forces won important successes against the US and its lackeys, said a communiqué released on November 1 by the High Command of the Lao People's Liberation Armed Forces.

From June to October, the US aggressors stepped up the "special war" in Laos in an attempt to consolidate their defensive strategic position. This is part of Washington's policy in Indochina together with "Vietnamization" in South Viet Nam and intensification of US armed aggression in Cambodia.

In Laos, the enemy strove hard to reinforce the puppet army. Part of Vientiane regular troops was shifted to the "special forces" directly commanded by US officers. Many Thai army units and Saigon puppet commando units were thrown into the war in Laos. Many large-scale operations were launched against the liberated zone. The heaviest ever bombings were carried out by US fighter-bombers and B-52s which dropped up to 5,000 tons of explosive a day.

But the Lao armed forces and people achieved substantial results in the rainy season, unfavourable though to the patriots who lack modern transportation means. In these five months, the LPLAF put out of action over 7,000 enemy troops, seized or destroyed over 4,000 fire-arms, 78 radio sets, and 73 vehicles, downed 73 planes and helicopters, sank 16 military vessels and blew up 2 strategic bridges and a rail station.

Speaking of the significance of these gains, the communiqué underlined the following points:

— The LPLAF continued to hold the initiative of attack, pushed up guerrilla warfare, and political actions in enemy-controlled areas, hammered at the adverse forces and inflicted on them heavy losses (particularly the US "special forces") and worsened the enemy's defensive.

— The free areas were consolidated in every respect and formed a vast stretch extending from the north to the south of the country, in which the welfare of the people was improved.

— The LPLAF were strengthened in their build-up and equipment, in moral and political consciousness, as well as in technique and fighting tactics.

— The enemy not only suffered setbacks on the battlefield, but was more and more politically isolated and divided.

— The successes in this rainy season have paved the way for greater ones in the dry season which has just started.

— They were possible thanks to the close unity and solidarity of the three brother peoples of Laos, Cambodia and Viet Nam.

STAGES AND PROBLEMS...

(Continued from page 3)

productivity of social labour. Of recent date, this has rapidly occupied a primary position. Considered the key industrial sector, it begins to make its action felt in the renovation of the whole of the national economy, chiefly agriculture. Though still weak by the standards of industrialized countries, it has made great progress.

Electricity made big strides till 1965. From 1960 onward, new thermo-power stations were built in implementation of the slogan "electricity must take a step ahead" in order to ensure for the national economy a powerful and constant development: in five years the output value of electricity increased by 242 per cent as against 80.4 per cent for that of total industrial output and 141.5 per cent for that of the output of Group A. Besides, it tends to serve production rather than to meet the needs of the people: 87.2 per cent for the former and 12.8 per cent for the latter in 1965, as against 78.3 per cent and 21.7 per cent in 1960.

Metalurgy, a budding branch, built during the first 5-year plan (1961-1965), produced its first melt of iron in 1964 and would have produced its first batch of steel in 1965 were it not for the US war of aggression.

In five years, from 1960 to 1965, coal rose by 61.7 per cent, cement

40.7 per cent, chemicals 369.7 per cent (180.8 per cent for chemical fertilizers), non-ferrous metals 12.3 per cent, timber 126.7 per cent.

Heavy industry does not only equip the other economic sectors. Every year, an important part of its production — 25 per cent in 1965, mostly mining products — was exported and represents 40 per cent of the total value of exports, a

III — INDUSTRY IN THE SERVICE OF AGRICULTURE

THE primary concern of industry is to help develop agriculture which is lagging far behind due to many centuries under feudalism and colonialism, and heavy destruction by the war.

The role of agriculture being decisive, its rehabilitation has been the primordial task and the essential link in the chain of the national economy.

This task has required ample means, manpower first: in the years 1955-1957, the techniques and equipment, chiefly since 1960 when it was possible for industry to be gradually geared to the service of agriculture.

It is safe to say that to some extent the advance made by agricultural production has been dependent on the increase of industrial supplies.

major source of foreign exchanges needed for the importation of equipment, machines, raw materials and modern techniques.

On the whole, heavy industry, though still incipient and feeble, made notable progress in ten years (1955-1965) and represents 10 per cent of the industrialization in the country.

It has been modernized: most of its 300 enterprises of various sizes have been mechanized, some with automated production chains: in 1965, the number of HP for a worker was 7 times over that of 1955.

As priority must be given to hydroelectricity, the first machines supplied have been the pumps and diesel or electric motors, together with a great quantity of materials, implements and conveyances (mechanized, semi-mechanized or improvised and equipment, for the building of irrigation works and pumping stations).

Agricultural mechanization is an imperative necessity but in the present state of heavy industry, equipping agriculture with tractors and other up-to-date machines is not yet possible. However, the use of small apparatuses, supplied mainly to local industry (bushy mills, threshers, winnowers, machines to process agricultural products or cattle-feed, cotton gins) has contributed to raising sensibly labour productivity and free manpower used in sedentary

farming for other agricultural work, or for animal husbandry and handicrafts; furthermore, it enables to offset the shortage of manpower caused by the requirements of national defence. To this end, thousands of agricultural co-operatives have been provided with small engineering facilities.

The introduction of small machines, hydraulic pumps and electric engines in agriculture calls for the extension of the transport network and distribution of electricity: in 1965, electric power provided for agriculture increased 8.4 times over 1960, taking in the same period 6 per cent from all the productive sectors as against 2 per cent in 1960.

With regard to the production of tools, industry supplies agriculture with hand-made improved implements and transport means and rudimentary tools: it produces for the co-operatives each year millions of pieces of these two categories which have played an important part in the raising of agricultural productivity.

Since 1958, chemical fertilizers, chiefly the phosphated products, have been used but their local production cannot satisfy the home need. Some insecticides have been manufactured.

On the whole, the "assistance" of industry to agriculture grows from between 25 and 30 per cent per year: the end of 1965, it accounted for up to 25 per cent of the value of output of heavy industry, which has substantially contributed to the transformation of agriculture, the laying of its material and technical foundations and the rise in labour efficiency in farming.

(To be continued)

Changes...

(Continued from page 6)

None of their movements escaped the keen eyes of the young and resourceful guerrillas.

Kompong Thmar was the first locality on Highway 6 to demonstrate the effectiveness of the co-ordinated action of the guerrillas and the Liberation Army against an enemy coup. A three-man team commanded by H., for instance, wiped out three assailants.

We met H. in a small house littered with broken bricks and tiles. His wife with close-cropped hair and dressed in black, sat near him. But this was not, their home. The cottage which had taken so much hard work had been reduced to ashes by the Lon Nol troops. H.'s look hardened as he recalled the fight against the enemy. He cast a casual glance in the direction of the concrete bridge half-hidden by a broken wall and said:

"There, it's there?"

It was there that he had got a lieutenant of the Lon Nol army although he knew he was risking his own life firing from where he was:

"I had seen them opening up on our unarmed fellow-countrymen demonstrating at the time we had no guns, but things are different now. We must make them pay for their brutality."

The guerrilla team of Kompong Thmar has grown by leaps and bounds since the reny operation. Some of its members have joined the regular Liberation Army, others the district regional forces. Those who are staying behind — a mixed patrol duty

and mount guard at the vital points, ready to hit back if the enemy dare show their face again.

The raiders withdrew to the south. Many of them, with bandaged wounds on their bodies, could not bring themselves to part with the clothes, watches, pig, radio sets, chicken, jewels and money they had looted from the population. They left behind the acrid smell of burnt wood and the stench of spoiled food.

The guerrillas and the members of the village committee were the first to clean up the mess. They sealed the doors and warehouses which had been preyed upon by the enemy and collected everything left in the place to return them to their owners, including cups and basins.

The village committee has issued the 14th communique since the foray. It said: "The Lon Nol troops came and sacked our place and looted our people. They took away everything they could and made a mess of what they couldn't. Our fellow-citizens are requested to hand over to the Committee things they find which are not theirs to be returned to their owners."

Three days later, to the office of the Committee the villagers brought ten "Honda" motorcycles, many bicycles and the raiders' other things like clothes, vessels, cakes of soap, packs of cigarettes...

A woman peddler from Kompong Thom was given back a case of cigarettes she said was lost when she was fleeing the raiders. When she opened it, she exclaimed: "There weren't so many

the revolutionary fighters for the younger generations.

The revolutionary power was short-lived but it succeeded in instilling firm confidence in the masses. The Party's prestige was raised still further. The people got stronger trust in their own strength. That is why in 1943, after the revolutionary bases had been dislocated in many areas following two years of enemy white terror, when the surviving communists could get into contact with one another the masses again rallied around the Party and bases developed rapidly. In less than two years, Nam Bo was strong enough again to rise up once more and join the rest of the country in a general insurrection in August 1945. Party cadres and members who took part in the Nam Ky uprising, afterwards formed the hard core of the revolutionary movement and have been active to date. This is a valuable asset of the South Viet Nam revolution.

Over the past 30 years, the Nam Bo people, upholding the glorious tradition of the Nam

The Nam Ky Uprising...

(Continued from page 2)

Ky uprising, have successively resisted the French colonialists and then the US imperialists and their lackeys.

Today, on the soil formerly red with the blood of tens of thousands of fighters of the Nam Ky uprising, people from all walks of life are continuing to make sacrifices in defence of the front of the Fatherland. The indomitable spirit of these fighters have forged millions of heroic youths into staunch liberation army men and outstanding combatants credited with signal exploits.

In commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Nam Ky Uprising, the South Vietnamese people recall this glowing past on their native land and, with stronger confidence and determination, are marching forward under the NLF banner to defend revolutionary power at all costs. They are deeply aware that they cannot live in peace and happiness unless they completely defeat the US aggressors, overthrow the reactionary administration of an agent of US imperialism — achieve independence and liberate the country.

packs in it. These are mine, but these belong to someone else. I give them back to the Committee."

A new life, a new code of morality has been established in the light brought by the National United Front of Kampuchea. It has instilled in the inhabitants of Kompong Thom such a confidence as they had never felt in their fellow-villagers, in the guerrillas, in the National Liberation Army, in the Front's Committee.

As they did in the past the former village councilmen the villagers still address the Committee men as "luc" (sir) but with the same consideration. The old folks have acquired themselves with the new and dear words

like "Kamada" (Committee) or "Prothien" (President). The "Kamada" called upon the town-folk to sell their goods to the Liberation Army at reasonable prices and not to overcharge the peasants. The "Kamada" has also provisionally distributed lands of the traitors to poor peasants so that they may grow their ricecrop while it is still the season. It also allotted 30 tons of paddy as relief food and seeds and gave allowances to the hardest hit of the 57 families which had suffered losses at the hands of Lon Nol men. Those houses whose owners have not returned have been sealed and the raiders' loot carefully looked after. The "tsovla kam" (office of the former village council) has become the seat of the

village committee of the FUNK. Scores of officers and men of the Lon Nol army, natives of the village as well as of the neighbourhood, have come there to turn over a new leaf. The "tsovla kam" has also been the site of send-offs for many young men joining the Liberation Army or taking up resistance. The cleared site was also the place where the population deposited their weapons and gifts for the National Liberation Army men — those who had substantially contributed to the unmaking of Kompong Thmar.

H. NAM
(Khmer News Agency)

Military Operations

"SPECIAL PACIFICATION" FOILED BY GUERRILLAS AND REGIONAL TROOPS

GIAI PHONG Press Agency reported that from late October to mid-November, the enemy devoted great efforts to "pacify" the Mekong Delta (a great source of human and material resources in South Viet Nam, as well as the flood-stricken areas north of South Viet Nam. The guerrillas and regional troops were credited with great achievements in the protection of the population and routing the enemy.

MEKONG DELTA

IN Chau Doc province, 4 puppet battalions of Infantry Divisions 9 and 21 swept the Mount Co To area, about 100km west-southwest of Saigon. From November 5 to 8, many units were assailed in their camps while others were intercepted in their searches. At least one hundred puppet troops were put out of action in these four days.

Farther south, in Rach Gia province, PLAF men harassed the enemy defence line along Xeo Ro canal, on the coast of Thailand Gulf. Battalion 4, Regiment 31, puppet Infantry Division 21, coming to rescue this sector, was intercepted on November 1 and took about one hundred casualties.

The guerrillas and regional forces also hammered at the enemy in other sectors: at Ben Thanh, Ben Tre province, 40 enemy troops were wiped out on the night of Nov 1; at An Ninh, Long An province, two platoons of Infantry Division 25 were knocked out respectively on October 23 and 27.

FIRST STRATEGIC AREA

PLA men fought four battles in Hue region. On November 4, 20km north of the city, 19 GIs were blown up by mine on the bank of the Bo river. The following days, a US platoon air-dropped on a locality 40km northwest of Hue, was written off the muster-roll. On November 9, at 35km northwest of Hue, a US unit was intercepted. A platoon was wiped out, other units were hotly pursued during their retreat and 30 GIs put out of action.

On November 13, a US company of Airmobile Division 10, air-dropped on Hill 350, 17km southwest of the city, was immediately intercepted and suffered 30 casualties at nightfall.

In Da Nang area, from October 30 to November 5, 150 GIs were killed or wounded, and 3 planes and choppers downed by guerrillas in Que Son and Tien Phouc districts.

In Quang Ngai province, one of the areas the hardest hit by the October typhoon, 30 GIs were killed during the first three days of November when a US unit was occupying a village in Mo Duc district. On similar occasions 11 other GIs were knocked out at Duc Chanh village.



Secondary school girls versus Saigon police.

ON October 31, nearly one hundred representatives of such organizations as "Popular Front for Peace," "Women's Movement for the Right to Live," "Committee for Improvement of the Prison Regime in South Viet Nam," "Committee for the People's Right to Live," "Students' General Association" and well-known personalities, intellectuals, businessmen and industrialists, held in Saigon a meeting in which they demanded withdrawal of US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, formation of a genuinely representative government and re-establishment of peace in South Viet Nam. This meeting marked a turning point in the struggle of various strata of the urban population in South Viet Nam.

With dollars and bayonets, the US imperialists have imposed on the South Vietnamese people a war they themselves have kindled. As it drags on, the artificial boom has not been able to mitigate the agonies and humili-

ations are still conspicuous." Phong, a school girl arrested by the Saigon authorities, revealed that four mates of hers, Que Huong, Bich Lien, Thuyet Nga, and Mai, had been put to the third degree: they were stripped of all clothes, hung to the ceiling, made to drink soapy water and given electric shocks on their breasts. Que Huong had a leg broken.

Samples of this violence were the armed attacks on the Viet Nam Quoc Tu pagoda on the night of May 4, 1970 and the police brutalities against students and pupils on August 30, 1970. Over 80,000 people were apprehended during the campaign "For the People" from September 15 to October 28 in Saigon, in which the people were arbitrarily arrested, tortured, looted and terrorized. Now detained in jail are Truong Dinh Den, runner-up in the presidential race against Thieu, "Representative" Tran Ngoc Chau, accused of "intelligence with the Viet Cong," students Huynh Tan Nam,

Mass Action in Enemy-Controlled Areas

The Ground Is Burning under the US Aggressors and Their Agents

liations of the South Vietnamese. Death and destruction have caused an economic and social crisis, hybridization of the national culture and instability and misery for the people.

From 1963 to 1969, the cost of living rose by 397 per cent in Saigon. Since the beginning of this year, market prices have gone up from 30 to 60 per cent (the Saigon paper *Dai Nhat Toc*, Oct. 11, 1970). Most particularly, 24 hours after the devaluation of the piastre, the prices of many commodities shot up. From 3,000 piastres per 100-kg bag, rice, the staple food of the Vietnamese, has soared to 6,000 piastres while a puppet soldier gets 4,200 piastres per month, a school mistress over 4,000 piastres, and a policeman over 3,000 piastres. While the Saigon piastre is depreciated and prices are skyrocketing, the 20 per cent pay rise for the puppet soldiers and civil servants is understandably insignificant.

The inhabitants in enemy-held areas are legitimately exasperated because the only means resorted to by the Saigon puppet authorities has been repression. Since early March 1970, scenes of policemen hurling tear gas grenades at, or bludgeoning, students, pupils, Buddhists, pressmen, puppet war invalids have become common occurrences. A harsh penitentiary regime prevails in various prisons and concentration camps in Saigon, Poulo Condor, Phu Quoc, where prisoners are put to the most inhuman tortures. These cruelties have been many times denounced by public opinion. Kieu Mong Thu, a female "MP," said of the torture inflicted on the students, male and female, arrested in March 1970 as follows: "The hall-marks left by such horrors as application of electricity to the breasts, driving of pins into the fingers and knees of pris-

Le Van Nui, Tran Hoai, protesters against Thieu's repression, and hundreds of other people, including Thich Thien Minh who did not bow to Thieu and the reactionary Buddhist priest: a dozen bones were killed. For speaking the truth, the Saigon press has been persecuted. From March 13 to November 9, 225 seizures and fines were ordered against newspapers. Even the war invalids, those who have risked their lives for the Thieu-Ky-Khiem regime, have been victimized for demanding better living conditions. As South Viet Nam has gone through 29 years of war, since the Allies made war against Japan in Indochina, our people now long for peace. They are "fed up" with the war which is being "Vietnamized," by the US, because more than any other else, they understand that this is only a US policy aiming at "changing the complexion of the corpse." This war is not waged by them and for them. They are all the more indignant at the Americans who have kindled it and at the Thieu-Ky-Khiem junta who are hanging on to the aggressors to drag it. That is why they more and more strongly object to the presence of the US expeditionary forces and the mercenary troops of US satellite countries in South Viet Nam and the presence of Thieu-Ky-Khiem in the saddle of the "Republic of Viet Nam," the underlying cause of all their miseries.

The truth must out however. The goal of struggle of the progressive and patriotic elements in the South, rallied under the banner of the NFL and other revolutionary organizations, has become the watchword of people living in the enemy's grip. Such bogeys as "communist hands," "communist masterminded elements" can intimidate nobody. The enemy is sitting on an active volcano.